

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 269

2 INTRODUCED BY R. MARSHALL

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO A LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH;
5 REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY FOR RULES RELATED TO WASTEWATER
6 TREATMENT AND CONTROL; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 50-1-101, 50-2-116, AND 50-2-130, MCA."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9
10 **Section 1.** Section 50-1-101, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"50-1-101. Definitions.** Unless the context indicates otherwise, in chapter 2 and this chapter, the
12 following definitions apply:

13 (1) "Communicable disease" means an illness because of a specific infectious agent or its toxic
14 products that arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected person, animal, or
15 inanimate reservoir to a susceptible host. The transmission may occur either directly or indirectly through an
16 intermediate plant or animal host, a transmitting entity, or the inanimate environment.

17 (2) "Condition of public health importance" means a disease, injury, or other condition that is
18 identifiable on an individual or community level and that can reasonably be expected to lead to adverse health
19 effects in the community.

20 (3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-
21 2201.

22 (4) "Inanimate reservoir" means soil, a substance, or a combination of soil and a substance:

23 (a) in which an infectious agent normally lives and multiplies;
24 (b) on which an infectious agent depends primarily for survival; and
25 (c) where an infectious agent reproduces in a manner that allows the infectious agent to be
26 transmitted to a susceptible host.

27 (5) "Institutional controls" means legal or regulatory mechanisms designed to protect public health
28 and safety that:

- 1 (a) limit access to or limit or condition the use of environmentally contaminated property or media;
 2 (b) provide for the protection or preservation of environmental cleanup measures; or
 3 (c) inform the public that property or media is or may be environmentally contaminated.

4 (6) "Isolation" means the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals
 5 who are infected or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease or possibly communicable
 6 disease from nonisolated individuals to prevent or limit the transmission of the communicable disease to
 7 nonisolated individuals.

8 (7) "Local board of health" or "local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of
 9 health.

10 (8) "Local governing body" or "governing body" means:

11 (a) the board of county commissioners that oversees a county local board of health;

12 (b) the elected governing body of a city that oversees a city local board of health; or

13 (c) the entity identified as the governing body as established in the bylaws, interlocal agreement, or
 14 memorandum of understanding creating a city-county local board of health or a local district board of health.

15 ~~(8)~~(9) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by a
 16 local board of health. With regard to the exercise of the duties and authorities of a local health officer, the term
 17 may include an authorized representative of the local health officer.

18 ~~(9)~~(10) "Local public health agency" means an organization operated by a local government in the
 19 state, including local boards of health or local health officers, that principally acts to protect or preserve the
 20 public health.

21 ~~(10)~~(11) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.

22 ~~(11)~~(12) "Public health services and functions" means those services and functions necessary to
 23 promote the conditions in which the population can be healthy and safe, including:

24 (a) population-based or individual efforts primarily aimed at the prevention of injury, disease, or
 25 premature mortality; or

26 (b) the promotion of health in the community, such as assessing the health needs and status of the
 27 community through public health surveillance and epidemiological research, developing public health policy,
 28 and responding to public health needs and emergencies.

1 ~~(12)~~(13) "Public health system" means state and local public health agencies and their public and
2 private sector partners.

3 ~~(13)~~(14) "Quarantine" means the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of
4 individuals who are or may have been exposed to a communicable disease or possibly communicable disease
5 and who do not show signs or symptoms of a communicable disease from nonquarantined individuals to
6 prevent or limit the transmission of the communicable disease to nonquarantined individuals.

7 ~~(14)~~(15) "Screening" means diagnostic or investigative analysis or medical procedures that determine
8 the presence or absence of or exposure to a condition of public health importance or the condition's precursor
9 in an individual.

10 ~~(15)~~(16) "Testing" has the same meaning as screening."
11

12 **Section 2.** Section 50-2-116, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"50-2-116. Powers and duties of local boards of health.** (1) In order to carry out the purposes of
14 the public health system, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, each local board of health shall:

15 (a) appoint and fix the salary of a local health officer who is:

16 (i) a physician;

17 (ii) a person with a master's degree in public health; or

18 (iii) a person with equivalent education and experience, as determined by the department;

19 (b) elect a presiding officer and other necessary officers;

20 (c) employ qualified staff;

21 (d) adopt bylaws to govern meetings;

22 (e) hold regular meetings at least quarterly and hold special meetings as necessary;

23 (f) identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health importance through:

24 (i) epidemiological tracking and investigation;

25 (ii) screening and testing;

26 (iii) isolation and quarantine measures;

27 (iv) diagnosis, treatment, and case management;

28 (v) abatement of public health nuisances;

- 1 (vi) inspections;
- 2 (vii) collecting and maintaining health information;
- 3 (viii) education and training of health professionals; or
- 4 (ix) other public health measures as allowed by law;
- 5 (g) protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of
- 6 public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that
- 7 might cause disease or adversely affect public health;
- 8 (h) supervise or make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders
- 9 for compliance or for correction, destruction, or removal of the conditions;
- 10 (i) bring and pursue actions and issue orders necessary to abate, restrain, or prosecute the violation
- 11 of public health laws, rules, and local regulations;
- 12 (j) identify to the department an administrative liaison for public health. The liaison must be the local
- 13 health officer in jurisdictions that employ a full-time local health officer. In jurisdictions that do not employ a full-
- 14 time local health officer, the liaison must be the highest ranking public health professional employed by the
- 15 jurisdiction.
- 16 (k) with the approval of a majority of the local governing body and subject to the provisions of 50-2-
- 17 130, adopt necessary regulations that are not less stringent than state standards for the control and disposal of
- 18 sewage from private and public buildings and facilities that are not regulated by Title 75, chapter 6, or Title 76,
- 19 chapter 4. The regulations must describe standards for granting variances from the minimum requirements that
- 20 are identical to standards promulgated by the board of environmental review and must provide for appeal of
- 21 variance decisions to the department as required by 75-5-305. If the local board of health regulates or permits
- 22 water well drilling, the regulations must prohibit the drilling of a well if the well isolation zone, as defined in 76-4-
- 23 102, encroaches onto adjacent private property without the authorization of the private property owner.
- 24 (2) Local boards of health may:
- 25 (a) accept and spend funds received from a federal agency, the state, a school district, or other
- 26 persons or entities;
- 27 (b) with the approval of a majority of the local governing body, adopt necessary fees to administer
- 28 regulations for the control and disposal of sewage from private and public buildings and facilities;

- 1 (c) adopt regulations that do not conflict with 50-50-126 or rules adopted by the department:
- 2 (i) for the control of communicable diseases;
- 3 (ii) for the removal of filth that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;
- 4 (iii) with the approval of a majority of the local governing body and subject to the provisions of 50-2-
- 5 130, for sanitation in public and private buildings and facilities that affects public health and for the maintenance
- 6 of sewage treatment systems that do not discharge effluent directly into state water and that are not required to
- 7 have an operating permit as required by rules adopted under 75-5-401;
- 8 (iv) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130 and Title 50, chapter 48, for tattooing and body-piercing
- 9 establishments and that are not less stringent than state standards for tattooing and body-piercing
- 10 establishments;
- 11 (v) for the establishment of institutional controls that have been selected or approved by the:
- 12 (A) United States environmental protection agency as part of a remedy for a facility under the federal
- 13 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.; or
- 14 (B) department of environmental quality as part of a remedy for a facility under the Montana
- 15 Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act, Title 75, chapter 10, part 7; and
- 16 (vi) to implement the public health laws; and
- 17 (d) promote cooperation and formal collaborative agreements between the local board of health and
- 18 tribes, tribal organizations, and the Indian health service regarding public health planning, priority setting,
- 19 information and data sharing, reporting, resource allocation, service delivery, jurisdiction, and other matters
- 20 addressed in this title.

21 (3) A local board of health may provide, implement, facilitate, or encourage other public health

22 services and functions as considered reasonable and necessary."

23

24 **Section 3.** Section 50-2-130, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"50-2-130. Local regulations no more stringent than state regulations or guidelines.** (1) After

26 April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through ~~(4)~~ (5) or unless required by state law, the local

27 board may not adopt a rule under 50-2-116(1)(k), (2)(c)(iii), or (2)(c)(iv) that is more stringent than the

28 comparable state regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The local board may

1 incorporate by reference comparable state regulations or guidelines.

2 (2) The local board may adopt a rule that is more stringent than comparable state regulations or
3 guidelines to implement;

4 (a) 50-2-116(1)(k), or (2)(c)(iii) with the approval of a majority of the local governing body; or

5 (b) 50-2-116 (2)(c)(iv) that is more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines only;

6 (3) A rule adopted as allowed in subsection (2) may only be implemented if the local board makes a
7 written finding, after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record, that:

8 (a) the proposed local standard or requirement protects public health or the environment; and

9 (b) the local board standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or
10 environment and is achievable under current technology.

11 ~~(3)(4)~~ The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in
12 the record that forms the basis for the local board's conclusion. The written finding must also include
13 information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable
14 to the proposed local standard or requirement.

15 ~~(4)(5)~~ (a) A person affected by a rule of the local board adopted after January 1, 1990, and before
16 April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines
17 may petition the local board to review the rule. If the local board determines that the rule is more stringent than
18 comparable state regulations or guidelines, the local board shall comply with this section by either revising the
19 rule to conform to the state regulations or guidelines or making the written finding, as provided under
20 subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A
21 petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The
22 local board may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$250.

23 (b) A person may also petition the local board for a rule review under subsection ~~(4)~~ (5)(a) if the local
24 board adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no state regulations or guidelines existed and the
25 state government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than
26 the previously adopted local board rule."

27 - END -